REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

The Examiner's attention is directed to the attached Rule 132 Declaration. The Rule 132 Declaration provides additional evidence that residual torque is not dependent on known parameters of stencils (as disclosed in the Declaration) and that it does related to the structure of a stencil sheet.

U.S. Patent 6,025,286 discloses a stencil sheet which is a laminate of a fibrous support and a polyester film, and also discloses alleged parameters: a range of thickness of the film, ranges of average diameter and basis weight of fibers of the support. However, as the Rule 132 Declaration demonstrates, such as in GRAPHs 1-3, these parameters are not dependent upon the claimed residual torque (T-H).

According to the present invention, the residual torque (T-H) reflects a structure of a stencil sheet. More specifically, it relates to the tangling state of the fibers in the porous support in the stencil sheet. This is visually seen from the photographs accompanying the Declaration. If the fibers are bonded to each other so as not to be easily untangled, the stencil sheet can recover from bending (as shown in the photographs of sample 7 of the Declaration) so that no creasing on printing drums occurs. This phenomenon is described from page 3, line 9, through page 4, line 21, of the present specification.

From the above, Applicants' submit that the claimed residual torque (T-H) is a structural limitation of the stencil sheet, which is different from the parameters disclosed in the cited reference, and would not have been taught by the cited reference.

Please note the address of Applicants' counsel (July 7, 2001 paper herein). The PTO has been mis-mailing papers to the wrong address.

Please pass this application on towards allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

By: _____

Kendrew H. Colton
Registration No. 30,368
Telephone No. (202) 419-7000
Facsimile No. (202) 419-7007

New Local Address

Fitch, Even, Tabin & Flannery
1801 K Street, N.W.
Suite 401L
Washington, D.C. 20006-1201
Telephone No. (202) 419-7000
Facsimile No. (202) 419-7007